



INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

To: Indiana State Board of Education
From: Ron Sandlin, Senior Director of School Performance & Transformation
Date: August 2, 2017
RE: Charter Schools USA Contract Extension

ISSUE: The current contracts between the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) and Charter Schools USA (CSUSA) to operate T.C. Howe High School (5639) and Emmerich Manual High School (5481) expire on June 30, 2018. The school community at both schools is entitled to know what the future holds going into the 17/18 academic year. Therefore, the SBOE should take action to provide a clear vision for the future of each school beyond this upcoming school year.

RECOMMENDATION: Direct the IDOE, in collaboration with SBOE staff, to extend the terms of the existing contracts with CSUSA to operate T.C. Howe High School (5639) and Emmerich Manual High School (5481) with the following conditions:

- Extend the term of each contract through June 30, 2020 to align with the existing CSUSA contract to operate Emma Donnan Middle School (5572);
- Each contract must include language that explicitly states the intent of both parties is to transition the schools back to IPS at the end of 2020 (as is included in the contract to operate Emma Donnan Middle School (5572);
- Each contract must include two-year performance benchmarks linked to Indiana's A-F Accountability Model that demonstrate a commitment to each school earning a 'D' or high performance rating by the end of 2020.

HISTORY: In August of 2011 the SBOE exercised their legislative authority to intervene in chronically underperforming schools. In doing so the Board assigned CSUSA to operate three chronically underperforming schools in Indianapolis:

- Emma Donnan Middle School (5572)
- Emmerich Manual High School (5481)
- Thomas Carr Howe Community High School (5639)

Following a transition year during the 2011/2012 school year, under the Board's direction, the IDOE entered into three separate contracts with CSUSA to operate each individual school. The terms of these initial contracts were from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2016.

As the original contracts were set to expire, CSUSA approached the Board requesting an extension for each school. In December of 2014, the Board voted to extend the terms of each contract through June 30, 2018. Then, in April of 2015, in order to align the terms of the contract to operate Emma Donnan Middle School (5572) with the terms of a newly created Innovation Network School within the same facility, the Board directed the IDOE to extend the contract for Emma Donnan Middle School (5572) through June 30, 2020.